

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A fuel cell system, comprising:
at least first and second fuel cells, each of the fuel cells having at least one reactant inlet line and at least one output outlet; and
a first heater arrangement operably connected to the at least one output outlet of the first fuel cell and associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell such that heat from the first heater arrangement is transferred to reactants in the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell.
2. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second fuel cells are substantially identical.
3. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the at least one reactant inlet line comprises a fuel inlet line and an oxidant inlet line;
the at least one output outlet comprises an anode output outlet and a cathode output outlet; and
the first heater arrangement comprises a first fuel heater associated with the fuel inlet line of the second fuel cell and a first oxidant heater associated with the oxidant inlet line of the second fuel cell.

4. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first heater arrangement includes an output outlet, the fuel cell system further comprising:

a third fuel cell having at least one reactant inlet line and at least one output outlet; and

a second heater arrangement operably connected to the at least one output outlet of the second fuel cell and to the output outlet of the first heater arrangement, and associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the third fuel cell such that heat from the second heater arrangement is transferred to reactants in the at least one reactant inlet line of the third fuel cell.

5. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an inlet valve arrangement associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell and located downstream from the first heater arrangement.

6. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 5, wherein

the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell comprises a fuel inlet line and an oxidant inlet line;

the first heater arrangement comprises a first fuel heater associated with the fuel inlet line of the second fuel cell and a first oxidant heater associated with the oxidant inlet line of the second fuel cell; and

the inlet valve arrangement comprises a fuel inlet valve located downstream from the first fuel heater and an oxidant inlet valve located downstream from the first oxidant heater.

7. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

a fuel isolation valve associated with the first fuel inlet line and located upstream from the first fuel heater and an oxidant isolation valve associated with the first oxidant inlet line and located downstream from the first oxidant heater.

8-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an inlet valve associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell and located downstream from the first heater arrangement; and
an isolation valve associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell and located upstream from the first heater arrangement.

32. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:
a controller, operably connected to the inlet and isolation valves, adapted to open the isolation valve while the inlet valve is closed, and to subsequently close the isolation valve after the portion of the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell between the inlet and isolation valves has been filled with reactant.

33. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the controller is further adapted to subsequently open the inlet and isolation valves in response to the reactant within the portion of the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell between the inlet and isolation valves reaching a predetermined temperature.

34. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:
a common main line connected to the at least one reactant inlet line of the first fuel cell and to the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell;
wherein the isolation valve is located downstream from the common main line.

35. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a common main line connected to the at least one reactant inlet line of the first fuel cell and to the at least one reactant inlet line of the second fuel cell; and
a main line heater including an inlet operably connected to the at least one output outlet of the second fuel cell and to the output outlet of the first heater arrangement.

36. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an electrically powered heater associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the first fuel cell.

37. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 36, wherein there is no heater arrangement operably connected to an output outlet of another fuel cell that is associated with the at least one reactant inlet line of the first fuel cell.

38. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein all of the output that passes through the at least one output outlet of the first fuel cell is supplied to the first heater arrangement.